

ANNUAL REPORT

Disability and Communication Access Board

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Linda Lingle, Governor, State of Hawaii
Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D., Director of Health

Disability and Communication Access Board
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OVERVIEW

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a Governor-appointed, statewide, 17-member Board whose mission is to advocate and promote the full integration of independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society.

This Report highlights key accomplishments for the year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

DCAB BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Fritz, Chairperson
Mark Obatake, Vice-Chairperson

Dean Aoki
Ron Awa
Ed Chevy
Nani Fife
Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong

Mark Giblin
Ann Ito
Brian Kajiyama
Lance Kaneshiro
Lucy Miller, Ph.D.

Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka
Glenn Morgan
Anthony Riecke-Gonzales
Correna Pawn-White
(to 12/09)

STAFF

Francine Wai, Executive Director

Debbra Jackson, Planner

Charlotte Townsend, Coordinator Program and Policy Development Unit

William Nakamatsu, Program Specialist

Judy Paik, Program Specialist

Kristine Pagano, Communication Access Specialist

Leonard Lau, Program/IT Specialist

Jacob Dalton, Communication Access Technician

Curtis Motoyama, Facility Access Coordinator

Gary Batcheller, Facility Access Specialist

Duane Buote, Facility Access Specialist

Mona Higa, Facility Access Specialist

David Poe, Facility Access Specialist

Laurie Palenske, Facility Access Support Specialist

Susan Rocco, SPIN Coordinator

Jan Tateishi, SPIN Program Specialist

Cindy Omura, Secretary/Researcher

Rene Clymer, Clerk Typist/Researcher

James Letoto, Office Assistant

Geraldine Kealoha, Office Assistant

CIVIL RIGHTS, ADA COORDINATION, AND CITIZENSHIP

State and County Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordination and Training

- Per Governor's Administrative Directive 06-02, continued in the role of State ADA Coordinator by staffing meetings of the State Departments ADA liaisons and hosting meetings of the County ADA Coordinators. Provided technical assistance in resolving consumer complaints to State and County programs and services and maintained the ADA Coordination web site.



- Conducted twelve (12) trainings on either Title II of the ADA or general disability awareness and hosted nineteen (19) audio conference calls and webinars on the ADA for State ADA Coordinators.

- Conducted four (4) trainings for consumers on their rights or on legislative advocacy.

ADA training and technical assistance is supported, in part, through an annual Memorandum of Agreement with the Pacific ADA Center in Oakland, California.



State Civil Rights Legislation



- Provided testimony on various civil rights legislation at the Legislature. Most significant was amending State law concerning the ADA Amendments Act rules.

Voting Access

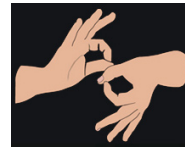
- Provided assistance to the Office of Elections on their Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant FY 2010, and assisted with access concerns as they closed or consolidated polling sites.



- Provided technical consultation to the Deputy Attorney General on the National Voter Registration Act.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS

Hawaii Quality Assurance System



- Administered the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) test to credential sign language interpreters to fifteen (15) applicants, of which ten (10) passed the test, and a local language proficiency test (HQAS+H) to three (3) applicants.

- Maintained a web listing of communication access providers with information on the credentials of practicing interpreters.

Communication Access Standards

- Provided comments on the Federal Communications Commission's proposed National Exchange Carrier Association Act compensation rates for TRS/VRS Fund and the U.S. Access Board's Draft Information and Communication Technology Standards.



Hawaii Administrative Rules §11-218

- Began revisions to Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 11, Chapter 218, "Communication Access Services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind" to establish a continuing education unit (CEU) program for interpreters, change the test fee, and implement other administrative changes.

Communication Access Training and Technical Assistance



- Served on the Judiciary's Committee on Court Interpreting and the Office of Language Access Advisory Council to ensure consistency in the use of interpreters statewide.
- Conducted four (4) trainings on communication access to various State and community groups.

Web Access

- Provided technical assistance to five (5) State or County agencies on the design of their web sites to provide access for persons with disabilities.

FACILITY ACCESS

Hawaii Revised Statutes §103-50 Document Reviews

- Conducted eight hundred eighty three (883) document (blueprint) reviews of buildings, facilities, and sites of the State and Counties per §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and other guidelines adopted by DCAB. Of the documents submitted, five hundred twenty seven (527) were new projects and three hundred fifty six (356) were re-submittals.



- Rendered six (6) interpretive opinions on design guidelines applicable to §103-50, HRS regarding topics such as accessible routes, bus loading areas, boat washdown areas, boat trailer parking, toilet stalls, and trash areas.

Master and Community Planning



- Analyzed and reviewed two (2) master plans to incorporate accessibility at the earliest stages of planning and conceptual design.

- Participated as a member of the Department of Health's Safety and Healthy Community Environments Committee, the Complete Streets Task Force, Pedestrian Task Force, and Home for Life Task Force.

Training and Technical Assistance

- Coordinated the 2009 Design For All Conference, September 23, 2009, with thirteen (13) workshops for two hundred six (206) participants.



- Conducted six (6) additional workshops or training sessions for the architectural and engineering community on accessible and exemplary design.

- Developed seven (7) "Access E-Bulletins" to disseminate information on facility access to the architectural and engineering community.

- Responded to one thousand three hundred seventy six (1,376) requests by fax or email from design professionals for assistance on accessible design guidelines.

Awards for Excellence in Design

- Coordinated the 2009 Accessible Design Awards to recognize accessible and exemplary design of public and private buildings, facilities, sites, and recognized the awardees at the 2009 Design For All Conference.



Legislation

- Initiated a bill (House Bill 2152) to allow DCAB to assess a review fee for those projects subject to review under §103-50, HRS. Although the bill passed the Legislature it was not enacted into law by the Governor. However, it did demonstrate DCAB's ability to make the §103-50, HRS review process self-sufficient.

- Supported Congressional legislation on the Inclusive Home Care Design Act.

Code Analysis

- Provided extensive analysis and recommendations to the State Building Code Council, established in 2008 to develop a Statewide Building Code modeled after the International Building Code (IBC). DCAB's Standing Committee on Facility Access served as the Investigative Committee on Accessibility for the Council and made recommendations on the accessibility language to be included in the State Building Code.

- Analyzed and submitted comments to the U.S. Access Board on its Draft Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas to include beaches, trails, camping sites, and picnic facilities.

PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

DCAB administers the parking program for persons with disabilities in the State of Hawaii per §291, Part III, HRS and in compliance with Federal Law, P.L. 100-641.

Issuance of Parking Placards to Qualified Persons with Disabilities

- Coordinated the issuance of 37,768 placards (including purchasing and disbursing the placards, decals, identification cards, and application forms) to qualified persons with mobility impairments by the four (4) Counties in FY 2009-2010. The number of placards issued by County was as follows: City and County of Honolulu 27,443; County of Hawaii 4,664; County of Maui 3,609; and the County of Kauai 2,052. Of the total placards issued 32,697 (87%) were four-year or permanent placards and 5,071 (13%) were temporary placards issued for a period of six (6) months or less. A total of 72,411 individuals held active placards as of June 2010.



Quality Assurance Program

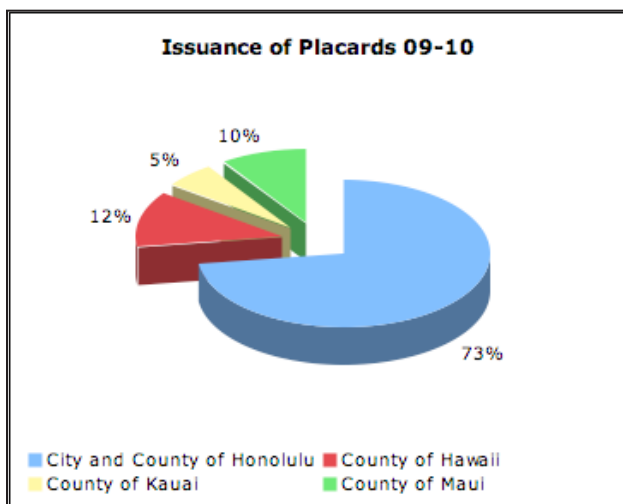
- Retrieved and removed from circulation 1,885 placards from deceased permittees primarily from an outreach mail campaign to the estates of permittees confirmed as deceased by official death records.



- Retrieved and removed from circulation 13,542 placards for reasons other than death of the permittee, primarily due to expiration of the placard upon renewal.

Accessible Parking Spaces

- Continued to work with the County police departments and parking control agencies to enforce the correct use of accessible parking spaces by contacting businesses and management agencies to seek voluntary compliance to correct design standards.



- Reimbursed the Counties approximately \$453,000 for issuing the placards on behalf of the State of Hawaii.

- Implemented a voluntary renewal by mail program with the City and County of Honolulu, issuing approximately one thousand four hundred forty (1,440) placards by mail from DCAB from 12,115 renewal notices (12% return rate.)



- Worked with several State and County departments and agencies to problem solve the creation and enforcement of accessible parking spaces. Most notable were the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Ala Wai Boat Harbor and Nuuanu Pali Lookout), the Department of Accounting and General Services (Keelikolani Building), and the County of Hawaii (Iaia viewing area trailhead).

Parking Related Legislation

- Successfully achieved passage of Senate Bill 2105 (Act 141) to significantly amend the State statute relating to parking for persons with disabilities. Act 141 will extend the life of a removable windshield placard from four (4) to six (6) years while at the same time limiting a person to one (1) placard (to prevent misuse). Act 141 also changes various administrative responsibilities of the State and County that will ultimately lead to a renewal by mail program in FY 2011.

EDUCATION

(Special Parent Information Network)

The goals and objectives of DCAB in the area of Education and Training are carried out by the Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) under a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Department of Education.

SPIN 'Warm Line'



- Provided information on programs and services available to support a child with special needs through one thousand five hundred one (1,501) warm line phone calls and emails.

Parent and Professional Training

- Sponsored its annual conference "Stayin' Alive with SPIN" with three hundred ninety four (394) participants in attendance and conducted seven (7) additional individualized presentations and twelve (12) displays/booths to parents or professionals on subjects ranging from positive behavioral supports to due process.



SPIN News and Information

- Published four (4) editions of the SPIN newsletter.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Implementation



- Collaborated with and provided staff support to the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) to provide final input on the Department of Education's administrative rules for special education (Chapter 60) and to develop implementation guidelines.

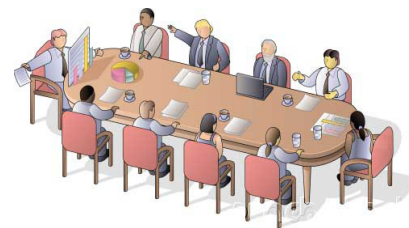
- Developed a parent brochure entitled "Handling Disagreements Early" to help reduce special education litigation.

COMMUNITY LIVING

Developing Community-Based Services

- Served on the QUEST Expanded (QExA) Advisory Group as the Department of Human Services rolled out managed care for individuals who are aged, blind and disabled. Opposed the proposed Med-Quest changes relating to reimbursement for dental care. Served on the Policy Advisory Committee on Medicaid Waiver.

- Served on advisory committees for the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board, Respite Task Force, Stride Mentoring, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Grievance and Appeals, Developmental Disabilities Council Ad-Hoc Committee for Budget Cuts, Center on Disability Studies, Mental Health Transformation-State Incentive Grant Work, and the Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii.

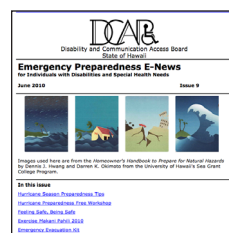


Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiatives

- Served on the following committees to ensure that people with disabilities are



included in emergency preparedness efforts: Alternate Care Sites Committee, Makani Pahili Working Group, H1N1 Working Group, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Working Group, Emergency Transition One-Stop Grant Committee.



- Participated in four (4) workshops on emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities and initiated an electronic newsletter with nine (9) editions.

- Completed, publicized, aired, and distributed two (2) videos on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL

Ground Transportation



- Served on the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services Advisory Committee for Accessible

Transportation. As a committee member reviewed denials for Disability Bus or Handi-Van passes and troubleshoot public transit complaints on securements and other disability issues.

- Served on the State Department of Transportation's Review Committee for FTA 5310 program funding.

- Supported the federal Pedestrian Safety Entitlement Act at the Congressional level.



Air Travel

- Updated the "Hawaii Traveler Tips" guide to assist visitors with disabilities on travel to Hawaii.
- Participated in the resolution of inaccessible air travel at Kalaupapa Settlement due to the lack of a lift for patients with Hansen's Disease.

- Conducted customer service training to managers and supervisors of the Honolulu-based airport staff of the State Department of Transportation.

Rail Transit

- Met multiple times with planners of the proposed rail system in the City and County of Honolulu to discuss access for the proposed system and sponsored a keynote presentation at our September 2009 Design Conference



on making the rail system accessible for persons with disabilities in both design and accessible service delivery.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Plans, Policies, and Legislation

- Reviewed and commented on the State Vocational Rehabilitation Plan and its Order of Selection.

- Provided comments to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on their proposed rules to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAA).



- Reviewed and commented to the State of Hawaii Employer/Union Trust Fund and the Department of Health on the State Employee Wellness Plan and possible impact on employees with disabilities.



- Provided comments to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs proposed rules on Medicare Supplemental Insurance Standards to adopt the provisions of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) into State insurance policies.

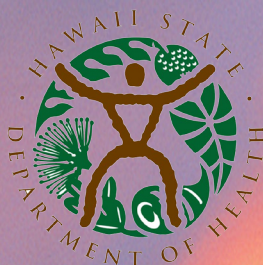
State Reasonable Accommodation Requests

- Provided extensive consultations on sixteen (16) complex reasonable accommodation cases for State employees with disabilities.



OTHER INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

- Responded to 2,568 inquiries (excluding the SPIN warm line and design fax inquiries) on services or laws affecting people with disabilities.
- Expanded the web site with information and videos on the ADA, design, communication access, parking, community resources, emergency preparedness, parent information, visitor information, and voting.



NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. If you have a concern, write or call the Disability and Communication Access Board or the Department of Health Affirmative Action Officer at P.O. Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378, or call 586-4614 (v/tty) within 180 days of a problem.

Alternate format available upon request